

Message Text

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FOR HA BRENN/STEIN

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 4148 ACTION USICA INFO SECSTATE,
WHITEHOUSE, CANBERRA, JAHARTA, KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE,
WELLINGTON, AND MANILA DATED MAY 5, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS BANGKOK 12997

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

ICA FOR PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE-PGM/G, PGM/RC, PGM/RM/RR,
PGM/P, EA, VOA/PF;

STATE FOR CROGERS, WH FOR VP OFFICE

FOLLOWING IS THE USICA TRANSCRIPT OF VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F.
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MONDALE'S NEWS CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK, MAY 5, 1978.

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

VICE PRESIDENT: (OPENING STATEMENT)
I BELIEVE MY VISIT TO BANGKOK HAS BEEN A MOST SUCCESSFUL ONE.
IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO MEET WITH THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING
AND THE QUEEN AND I HAVE HAD MOST VALUABLE TALKS WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR
THAI HOSPITALITY, I APPRECIATE THEIR MANY COURTESIES, I AM

PLEASED THAT MRS. MONDALE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE TEMPLES AND SOME OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND RICHNESS OF THIS COUNTRY, AND IT'S YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE TRADITIONAL WARMTH OF THE THAI PEOPLE FOR WHICH WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL.

AS YOU KNOW I HAVE JUST COME FROM THE REFUGEE CENTER WHICH WAS ONE OF THE MOST MOVING EXPERIENCES THAT I HAVE HAD ON THIS TRIP. THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS A PRODUCT OF THE MOST PRESSING AND TRAGIC HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD TODAY. I BELIEVE THERE IS NO MORE PROFOUND TEST OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS THAN THE WAY WE DEAL WITH THESE PEOPLE WHO DESERVE OUR ADMIRATION FOR THEIR COURAGE, AND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT. THE THAI GOVERNMENT DESERVES THE CREDIT AND SUPPORT OF ALL NATIONS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN DEALING WITH THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM OF ONE NATION ALONE. I MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO DO ALL IT COULD IN THIS AREA. SPECIFICALLY, WE WILL ADD PERSONNEL TO THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION TO SPEED UP THE PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CASES. I EXPLAINED TO THE PRIME MINISTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY TO ADMIT 25,000 REFUGEES PER YEAR. WE ESTIMATE THAT THIS WILL MEAN BETWEEN 15 TO 20,000 REFUGEES A YEAR FROM THAILAND. WE ARE SEEKING LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THAT COMMITMENT BUT WE WILL MEANWHILE BE USING INTERIM AUTHORITY AVAILABLE TO US TO THAT END. THE REFUGEES WHOM I MET WITH THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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MORNING WILL BE LEAVING SHORTLY FOR THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTEER AGENCIES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE, WHICH INCLUDE THE U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE, THE LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE, THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH THROUGH THEIR HUMANITARIAN AND EFFECTIVE WORK DESERVE THE ADMIRATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL OF US. I SPOKE WITH REFUGEES OF SEVERAL NATIONALITIES-- HMONG, KHMER, VIETNAMESE. SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN IN REFUGEE CAMPS FOR THREE YEARS IN THAILAND. WHEN I RETURN TO AMERICA I WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SPEEDING UP THE ADMISSION OF REFUGEES DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES. BUT THERE IS A LONGER-RUN PROBLEM AS WELL AND THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO SPEARHEAD AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO MEET IT. I WAS AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO OFFER UP TO TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR A HIGH-PRIORITY STUDY AND PLAN ON THE LONGER-TERM MISSION. ONCE THIS PLAN IS DEVELOPED, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS ON A SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST NOT FAIL TO RESPOND TO THIS HEARTBREAKING ISSUE. OUR WORK WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF COOPERATION AND CONTINUED CONSTRUCTIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THIS REGION. I MADE CLEAR TO PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK THAT AMERICA IS A PACIFIC POWER AND THAT OUR INTERESTS IN ASIA ARE ENDURING ONES. I EXPLAINED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT ALTHOUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED THE UNITED STATES' MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL SECURITY COMMITMENTS REMAIN. THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THAILAND IS A MATTER OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES. TO THIS END I MADE CLEAR OUR

WILLINGNESS, UNDER OUR GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRAFFIC, TO BE A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF NEEDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THAILAND. I CONVEYED PRESIDENT CARTER'S APPROVAL OF AN EARLIER THAI REQUEST FOR THE DALE OF SQUADRON OF 18 F-5E FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS ALSO ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY IN OUR CONVERSATIONS. I INDICATED UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND ITS EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE THAI GOVERN-
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MENT WAS RESPONSIVE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT WE WORK OUT A HIGH-LEVEL U.S.-ASEAN MEETING THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY IN THIS REGION. ASEAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE CONSULTING ON THIS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IS NOT ONLY ESSENTIAL FOR THE STABILITY OF THIS REGION BUT FOR ALL ASIA. THE UNITED STATES AGREES WITH THAT VIEW. TO THIS END, WE SIGNED AN AID AGREEMENT ON RURAL HEALTH CARE THAT REFLECTS OUR PARTICULAR CONCERN WITH MEETING THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE THAI PEOPLE. WE STAND READY TO HELP WITH CONCRETE PLANS AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT. WE WILL ALSO BE WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY AND I OFFERED A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SURVEY TEAM IN PARTICULAR TO WORK ON NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY, SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY, SOMETHING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY HAS A VERY GREAT INTEREST IN.

FINALLY, WE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS. AND I EXPRESSED THE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVERNMENT FOR THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP. I EMPHASIZED THAT CONTINUING EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BOTH FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AND FOR EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE VITAL JOB OF ENFORCEMENT.

LET ME SUM UP BY SAYING THAT WE HAD A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE, FRIENDLY AND POSITIVE MEETING. I AM DELIGHTED NOT ONLY WITH THE WELCOME I HAVE RECEIVED HERE, BUT WITH THE SPIRIT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WHICH QUITE GENUINELY REFLECTED THE FACT THAT THAILAND AND AMERICAN ARE OLD AND CONTINUING FRIENDS.
THANK YOU.

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Q & A

Q. MR. VICE PRESIDENT, PETER COLLINS OF CBS NEWS. MR. VICE PRESIDENT, AS YOUR KNOW, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN

CRITICIZED FOR UNEMENLY APPLYING ITS POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE PHILIPPINES, A CLOSE ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES YOU RAISED THE ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. MY QUESTION IS, NOW THAHTYOU ARE HERE IN A COUNTRY NEIGHBORING INDO CHINA, WHAT CAN THE UNITED STATES DO, OR SHOULD IT DO ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, FIRST OF ALL IN CAMBODIA, AND VIETNAM?

A. NOW OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM DEPENDING ON WHICH COUNTRY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. ON THE CAMBODIAM MATTER. AS YOU KNOW, OUR GOVERNMENT ISSUED A VERY STRONG STATEMENT UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL DIRECTION CONDEMNING THE MASSIVE TRAGEDIES THAT ARE OCCURRING IN CAMBODIA. AND WE'VE MADE CLEAR OUR PROFOUND OBJECTION TO THAT CRUEL AND INHUMANE SITUATION. IN THAILAND, I HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER BRIEFLY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT. AS YOU KNOW THEY ARE AT WORK ON A NEW CONSTITUTION; THEY HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO GO TO ELECTIONS, AND THE MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE THAT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION IN THAILAND IS THE COMPELLING ISSUE OF HOW REFUGEES ARE GOING TO BE DEALT WITH. AND HERE THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT ON EARTH, TRIED THE HARDEST TO COMPLY WITH THIS COMPELLING HUMAN NEED. I BROUGHT UP THE CSSUE OF SOME ALLEGATIONS AT BORDERS AND THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT TO ME THAT HE HAD ISSUED VERY DIRECT ORDERS AGAINST ANY SUCH POLICY, AND THAT IT IS CLEARLY NOT THE POLICY OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO DO SO. SO THAT WE DID DISCUSS THOSE ISSUES WITH THIS GOVERNMENT.

Q. MY NAME IS SULA CHULA KAMOL FROM NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THAILAND, IF IN PARTICULAR THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. IS LIKELY TO STOP. IS IS LIKELY THAT THE U.S. WILL PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANTS TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAS LONG BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ESTABLISHED? THANK YOU SIR.

A. WE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH SECURITY AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. ON SECURITY MATTERS, WE REAFFIRMED OUR TRADITIONAL COMMITMENTS TO THE SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THAILAND. WE FULFILLED THEIR REQUEST FOR THE NEW SQUADRON F-5E AIRPLANES THAT ARE VERY IMPORTANT. WE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD REVIEW ON A PRIORITY BASIS ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES WHICH THE THAI GOVERNMENT MIGHT MAKE, BUT HAD TO DO SO WITHIN THE OVERALL GUIDELINES OF THE EFFORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO REDUCE THE OVERALL SALES OF FOREIGN MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF ALL GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD. IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, WE HAVE ALREADY INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY DIRECT BILATERAL ECONOMIC AID ASSISTANCE TO THIS GOVERNMENT FROM THAT UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. AND WE INDICATED A DESIRE TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW MORE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREA, FOOD PRODUCTION AREA WHICH WE THINK CALLS FOR HIGH PRIORITY AND SO DOES THSOGOVERNMENT OF THAILAND. SO, I THINK WEJVENTAKEN A VERY

OPEN APPROACH ON IT. IN ADDITION TO THAT, OUR EMPHASIS ON ASEAN DISCUSSIONS ARE DESIGNAD AMONG OTHER THINGS TONBETTEC QORK WITM THAILAND UND WITM THE MEMBER NATIONS OF ASEAN IN THE WHOLENRANGE OF TRADE, CREDITS AND THE REST, AND THOSE SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN TMAT CONTEXT. AND ALSO, AS YOU MAY KNOW, WENTOOK A VERY STRONG STAND IN THE RENEWAL OF THE SO-CALLED OPEC AUTHORITY-- THAT'S THE OVERSEAS PRIVATA INVESTMANT CORPORATION--WHCCH WILL QUARANTEE INVESTMENTS BY U.S. BUSINEUSES IN THIS AREA. THAT LEGISLATION IS NOW ON ITS WAY AND QILL VROVIDE AN IMPROVED CLIMATE FOR U.S. CNVESTMENT. WE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE THAI GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS WHICH MAY BE A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT BREAKTHROKGH FOC THE ECONOMY OF THIS AREA AND WHICH INCLUDES U.S. BUSINESSMEN. SO WE'VE TRIED TO BE AS RESPONSIVENAS WE CAN IN THE WHOLENRANGENOF ECONOMIC AND SECURITY QUESTIONS AND I HOPE THAT WENHAVE BEEN.

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Q. HERBERT KAVLOW, ABC, WHAT AREYOU GOING TO DO TO GET OTHER NATIONS TO HELP WITH THE REFUGEES?

A. WELL, THERE'S SEVERAL ELEMENTS TO THIS. FIRST OF ULL, WENHAVE BEEN INCOURAGING OTHER NATIONS AS WELL AS OUR OWN TO INCRAASE THEIR COMMITMENTS TO THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER ON REFUGEES' EFFORTE. THAT'S A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT EFFORT AND THERE HASNBEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT--NRECENTLY, FOR WXUMPLE, THE JAPANASENHAVE MADENA TEN MILLION DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION TO THAT EFFORT. SECONDLY, WE HAVE BEEN URGING OTHER NATIONS AS WELL AS OUR OWN TO DO MORE TONSHARA THENBURDENNOF RECEIVING AND PERMUNENTLY PLACING THESE REFUGEES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. AND THAT EFFORT WILL CONTINUE. IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE'VE INCREASED OUR OWN COMMITMENT TO A COMMITMENT OF 25,000 WHICH I THINK CS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT AND THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS VERY, VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT EFFORT. FINALLY, QE INDICATED TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT THAT WE WOULDNFUND A STUDY FORNTHE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OVERALL PLAN TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM AND WOULD OURSELVES AND IN CONKUNCTION WITH OTHERNDEVELOPED NATIONS URGENA CONSORTIA TO CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE COSTS-- WHICH ARE GREAT -- OF SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. SO WE'VE TRIED ON A HIGH PRIORITY COMPREHENSIVE BASIS TO DEAL WITH WHAT MAY BE THE MOST TRAGIC HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY: THESE REFUGEES.

Q. ARE THEY RESPONDING ?

A. THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE. THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN VERY RESPONSIBE. AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN QUITE HELPFUL. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER NATIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED SMALLER NUMBAGS BUT PROPORTIONATA TO THEIR CAPACITY TO HELP THEY'VE ALSO BEEN VERY IMPRESSIVE.... HAVE RECEIVED SMALLER NUMBERS BUT PROPORTIONATELY THEIR CAPACITY TO HELP HAVE ALSO BEEN VERY IMPRESSIVE. I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT ALL NATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN AS HELPFUL AS WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE BUT WEJVE PRESSED THEM TO BE MORE FORTH-COMING. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT ALL NATIONS NEED TO HELP ON.

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Q: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, DAVID LAUGHTON FROM WASHINGTON POST: FOLLOPING ON YOUR LAST UNSWER, DOES THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WHICH IS TO BE STUDIES UNDER THE GRANT THAT YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT, DOES THAT SOLUTION RESIDE IN RESETTLEMENT OF THE BULK OF THE REFUGEES WITHIN THAILAND?

A. WE DID NOT ARRIVE AT A SPECIFIC FORMULATION AS TO HOW THE, WHAT WOULD BE THE OUTLINES OF THE FINAL RESULTS OF THIS STUDY. WE, AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT IT WOULD INCLUDE A WHOLE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES, AND SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN RESPONDED TO IN THE EARLIER QUESTIONS. OTHER COUNTRIES RECEIVING MORE, AND PERMANENTLY SETTLING THEM. IT'LL INVOLVE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT HERE BUT WE'RE WILLING TO HELP ON CROP SUBSTITUTION, TO HELP THESE PEOPLE HERE, IT INVOLVES HELPING PAY PART OF THE SUBSTANTIAL COSTS WHICH THE THAI AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE PUTTING OUT NOW FOR NOT ONLY PERMUNENTLY SETTLING IT BUT JUST HANDLING THE PROCESSING OF THEM ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. AND I THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SPECIFIC AND DETAILED ON THE FINAL OUTLINES OF THE RESULT.

Q: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, I'M DAVE HATCHER OF CBS AND BBC. I'D LIKE TO BEGIN MY QUESTION BRIEFLY BY QUOTING A RECENT ARTICLE OF JAMES RESTON IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. HE SAID IN PART THAT THE VIEW IN THE WHITEHOUSE ON THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY IS THAT THE MAIN ISSUE AT STAKE IS THE PRESIDENT'S RIGHT AND ABILITY TO CONDUCT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE NATIONWITHOUT EXCESSIVE INTERFERENCE BY THE CONGRESS OR THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN STATES. IN SOME WAYS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS HAD INVITED THESE PROBLEMS, IT HAS SCATTERED EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THAT NOBODY KNOWS QUITE WHETHER THE SECSTATE JUST OUT OF MOSCOW ON A COUNSELLING MISSION, OR MR. BREZINSKI NOW ON A TRIP TO CHINA, OR VP M ON HIS WAY TO SOKTHEAST ASIA IS REALLY SPEAKING IN A COHERENT VOICE FOR THE PRES. UNQUOTE. MY QUESTION IS HOW CAN YOU, MR. V.P.,

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CONVINCE PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE IN THIS AREA THAT QHUT YOU SAY WILL CONTINUENTO BE CREDIBLE?

A. WELL ACTUALLY OUR SECRET POLICY IS TO LET JAMES RESTON SPEAK FOR US. (LAUGHTER) BUT DON'T LET THAT GET OUT OF THE ROOM. (LAUGHTER) AS YOU KNOW, MR. RESTON IS ONE OF THE MOST GIFTED AND EXPERIENCED COMMENTATORS IN OUR COUNTRY, AND WE TAKE HIS SUGGESTIONS SERIOUSLY. WE DO NOT ALWAYS FIND THEM BINDING, BUT WE DO(LAUGHTER) READ HIS COLUMN RELIGIOUSLY. I MIGHT BEGIN BY SAYING THAT IT'S A BIG WORLD. AND OUR COUNTRY NEEDS TO BE ENGAGED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN A BROAD RANGE OF AREAS. IT NEEDS TO BE ENGAGED, TO BE SURE, IN A COHERENT, UNIFIED POLICY, AND WE ARE. THE SECSTATE, THE NATL SEC ADVISOR, MR. BRZEZINSKI, MYSELF,

SECBROWN, ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN MILITARY AND SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS WORK TOGETHER ON A COORDINATED BASIS. AND I COULD GO INTO THE VARIOUS MECHANISMS THAT WE HAVE FOR THAT, BUT I THINK WE HAVE A VERY COORDINATED EFFORT. THIS TRIP THAT I AM ON, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ONE WHICH WE'VE ALL AGREED ON, IT'S ESSENTIAL, I'M CONDUCTING IT ON BEHALF OF THE PRES. OF THE US. THE APPROACH THAT I'M TAKING, THE EMPHASES WE'RE MAKING, ARE AS A RESULT OF A VERY CAREFUL EVALUATION BY THE PRES. AND HIS ADVISORS. MY KEY STAFF ON THIS VISIT INCLUDE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATL. SEC. COUNCIL, MR. AURON, AND THE ASST SEC STATE FOR ASIAN & PACIFIC AFFAIRS, MR. HOLBROOKE. THEY ARE WITH ME, AND AT ALL TIMES WE ARE PURSUING I THINK A COORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE POLICY. AND I'M PROUD OF THAT. NOW IN TERMS OF THE AUTHORITY OF A PRESIDENT TO CONDUCT FOREIGN POLICY, I THINK IT'S THERE, AND CLEARLY THERE. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WAS FOR EXAMPLE WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND THE POWER TO DELIVER ON HIS COMMITMENT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY. THAT WAS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST ISSUES EVER CONFRONTED ON FOREIGN POLICY BY A MODERN PRESIDENT. THE CONGRESS RESPONDED, THE SENATE RESPONDED, AND I THINK THAT'S A REFLECTION THAT THIS PRESIDENT DOES HAVE THE AUTHORITY, DOES HAVE THE POWER, AND THOSE OF US WHO OPERATE AS HIS REPRESENTATIVES I THINK ARE FULFILLING THAT KIND OF POLICY.

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Q. IF I MAY FOLLOW UP ON THAT. A. CERTAINLY.

Q. DOES CONGRESS HAVE TOO MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY? AND A PERFECT EXAMPLE IS THE INTERIM PROGRAM YOU ARE ADOPTING NOW TO ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES BASED ON THE HOPE THAT CONGRESS WILL APPROVE YOUR LEGISLATION?

A. WELL IT'S NOT BASED ON THAT HOPE. WE HAVE AUTHORITY NOW IN THE PAROLE FIELD TO FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT. WE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE PERMANENT AUTHORITY WHICH REDEFINES THE NATURE OF HOW REFUGEES WILL BE RECEIVED IN TERMS OF CURRENT MODERN REALITY. AND WE HAVE ASKED THE CONGRESS TO RESPOND. WE THINK THEY WILL, AND WHEN WE MAKE NEW POLICY THE CONGRESS SHOULD BE INVOLVED. IT IS TRUE THAT IN A DEMOCRACY WITH AN INDEPENDENT CONGRESS MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WILL ASSERT THEIR CO-EQUAL AUTHORITY TO SEEK TO INFLUENCE FOREIGN POLICY. BUT THAT HAPPENS TO BE PRECISELY WHAT THE CONSTITUTION INTENDED. WE ACCEPT IT. WE THINK MANY TIMES THE ADVICE AND COUNSELING AND CRITICISM OF THE CONGRESS IMPROVES OUR POLICY, AND OUT OF THE PROCESS OF AN HONEST AND OPEN DEBATE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONGRESS COMES A MUCH BETTER, AND MORE PERMANENT, FOREIGN POLICY, A CREDIBLE FOREIGN POLICY, THAN IN THE ABSENCE OF IT.

Q. SMITH, NYTIMES

DID YOU DISCUSS HERE WITH PM K ANYTHING ABOUT THE US. RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS THERE, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR ADVANCE COMMITMENTS ON AID?

A. YES, WE DISCUSSED THAT MATTER GEMERALLY AND I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME CONCERNS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED HERE. WE HAVE MADE, I THINK, THE VIETNAMESE GOVT A KAIR OFFER AND WE STAND BY IT. WE HAVE OFFECED THEM TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NO UNCLASSIFIED

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PRECONDITIONS. THEY HAVE NEVER SPECIFICALLY RESPONJED TO THAT OFFER, BUT THEY HAVE STUCK TO THEIR POSITION THAT THE U.S. SHOULD MAKE A PRIOR COMMITMENT INTO US AID. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE CONGRESS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT DO THIS. IF THE VIETNAMESE WISH TO MOVE FORWARD, THEY CAN RESPOND FAVEORABLY TO OUR OFFER. I MADE THAT POSITION CLEAR TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

Q. WAS THERE A VIEW EXPRESSED HERE BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THIS MATTER?

A. NO HE LISTENED TO OUR OBSERVATIONS ON THAT. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAD RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVT AND THAT WAS HELPFUL TO THE OVERRALL PROCESS.

Q. CAN WE REFER TO THE F-5E'S AND CAN YOU EXPLAIN IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL HOW YOU SQUARE THE ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON ARMS SALES?

A. YES. THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE U.S. FOREIGN MILITARY SALES POLICY IS TO REDUCE THE TOTAL AMOUNT GLOBALLY AND TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIGH TECHNOLOGY WEAPONS INTO AN AREA WHERE THEY DO NOT EXIST. THIS RESPONSE TO THE THAI REQUEST FITS IN WITH THE OVERALL CEILING ON GLOBAL ARMS SALES THAT WE ESTABLISHED, EVEN WITH THE REDUCED NUMBER, AND IT INVOLVES AN AIRPLANE WHICH PROVIDES THE THAI GOVERNMENT WITH A PLANE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THEIR DEFENSE NEES. AND WE THINK UNDER BOTH STANDARDS OF OUR POLICY, THIS AGREEMENT COMPLIES.

Q. JOHN EVERINGHAM FROM AUSTRALIA: YOU WILL SEE IN AUSTRALIA- I WONDER IF A IS ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT YOU WOULD URGE TO TAKE MORE REFUGEES FROM THAILAND AND DO YOU FELL THAT A'S DUE TO ITS PAST INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA AND ITS GEOGRAPHIC POSITION WITHIN ASIA, DO YOU THINK IT HAS SOME KIND OF MORAL DUTY TO IT, MORE REFUGEES?

A. WE THINK THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN QUITE RESPON- UNCLASSIFIED

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SIVE TO THIS PROBLEM IF ALL GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN AS RESPONSIVE, I THINK WE WOULD NOT HAVE NEARLY THE PROBLEM WE HAVE NOW. AND WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVT FOR SOME TINME ON THIS -- NO QUESTION THAT THE ISSUE WILL COME UP -- WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE -- BUT THAT'S BEEN OUR VIEW.

Q. HOW DEEPLY SHOULD THE UNITED STATES BECOME INVOLVED IN SECURITY PROBLEMS OF EASTERN ASIA? SHOULD IT ENTER INTO NEW DEFENSE COMMITMENTS? SHOULD IT LET THE EXISTING ONES LAPSE? SHOULD IT PROVIDE AID AGAINST INSURRECTIONS? AND I ASK THIS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE VIETNAMESE CHARGE THAT WE ARE RESTORING THE CABAL OF THE 1960'S?

A. THERE'S ... LET ME BEGIN WITH THE LAST POINT FIRST. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY BASIS AT ALL FOR THAT CHARGE. I HAVE NOT READ THE VIETNAMESE STATEMENT IN DETAIL, BUT IT DOES NOT STATE THE CASE ACCURATELY AT ALL. WE DO HOWEVER, REMAIN DEEPLY INTERESTED AND INVOLVED IN THIS REGION. WE WANT TO ASSIST THESE NATIONS IN THEIR LEGITIMATE SECURITY NEEDS ACCORDING TO THEIR DESIRES TO THE EXTENT THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO RESPOND. WE STAND BY OUR TRADITIONAL COMMITMENTS. WE ARE AN ASIAN POWER AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE. AND WE WANT TO BE A RESPONSIBLE ONE WHOSE POLICIES CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THESE NATIONS. AND I THINK THE PEACEFUL BASIS OF OUR POLICIES IS UNDERSCORED BY THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO PUT THAT TRAGIC WAR BEHIND US. WE HAVE MADE A FAIR OFFER, AS I HAVE SAID EARLIER, TO THE VIETNAMESE TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST NEW POLICIES AND INITIATIVES OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. AND THAT OFFER STILL STANDS. WE THINK IT'S A FAIR ONE, AND WE AWAIT A RESPONSE.

Q. MR VICE PRESIDENT, MAY I FOLLOW UP ON THAT?

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A. YES?

Q. DOES YOUR REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TO THAILAND UNDER THE MANILA PACT AND THE RUSK-THANAT KHOMAN COMMUNIQUE MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT SOMEDAY RECOMMIT GROUND FORCES TO SOUTHEAST ASIA?

A. WE HAVE NO CURRENT PLANS TO DO SO BUT WE STAND BEHIND THOSE COMMITMENTS THAT I RECITED IN THE OPENING STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, HERE IN THAILAND, OUR FRIENDSHIP IS A LONG ONE AND IT WILL ENDURE. CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED BUT OUR COMMITMENTS OF BOTH A REGIONAL AND A BILATERAL NATURE UNDER THE MANILA PACT ARE STILL VALID. THEY DO NOT THREATEN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THOSE WHO WOULD TRY TO RAISE THE SPERE OF ANOTHER SUCH INTERVENTION BY OUR COUNTRY ARE, I THINK, JUST ENGAGING IN IRRESPONSIBLE PROPAGANDA. BUT WE'RE INTERESTED HERE IN PEACE AND STABILITY AND NATIONAL INDIPENDENCE. WE HAVE NO DESIRES BEYOND THAT AND THE PURPOSE OF MY MISSION HERE IS MULTI-FACETED. AND WE'VE DESCRIBED IT IN DETAIL AND I THINK IT'S THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP THAT THESE ASIAN NATIONS MOST WANT FROM US.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END TRANSCRIPT.

MCGINLEY UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Drafter: LSCHERMERHORN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-0707
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805112/baaaeypa.tel
Line Count: 492
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3773895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2539630
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: SOPN, TH, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: GENEVA INFO HONG KONG MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3773895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014